

# THOMAS JEFFERSON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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Chairman and President  
Michael W. Thompson

May 22, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners:

The mission of the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy is to provide Virginia's political, business, academic, community and media leadership with thoughtful, realistic, useful and non-partisan analysis of public policy issues confronting our Commonwealth. The general areas of interest for this Institute are reforming government, economic development, improving education and environmental stewardship.

We have long believed that broadband connectivity is crucial to the competitiveness of Virginia. It seems to me from what I have read that the AT&T/T-Mobile merger will strengthen our commonwealth by bringing even more private investment to Virginia. And the proposed plan is expected to hasten the build out of additional – and faster -- mobile broadband to areas of the Commonwealth not now served, especially rural and mountainous areas. It seems to me that this kind of private investment in our state, especially in our less densely populated rural areas, will pay huge dividends for our citizens.

This organization also believes in promoting strong competitive markets. We disagree with those who argue that the wireless marketplace will be less competitive if this merger approved. In fact, our review of what has been written about this plan concludes that the telecommunications industry will remain intensely competitive. Should this be the case, then all consumers will benefit.

Please look favorably on this merger because of the significant benefits to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to the entire United States.

Sincerely yours,



Michael W. Thompson  
Chairman and President